



City of San Diego
Development Services Department
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Building Newsletter 23-2

Allowable Uses for Utility Grade Lumber

Interpretations of State and Local Building Codes
1994 Uniform Building Code: Chapter 23
Revision Date: January 1996

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I. Building Inspection Department Requirements

The conditions under which Utility grade light framing lumber will be approved for use by this department appear in part in Section 2326.11.1 of the UBC and are as follows:

- A. Utility grade studs shall be spaced a maximum of 16 inches on center and support not more than a ceiling and a roof. 2x3 studs shall not be used in exterior walls.
- B. The maximum wall height shall be 8 feet for exterior and/or load-bearing walls and 10 feet for interior nonload-bearing walls.
- C. Utility grade lumber may also be used for double top plates on stud walls, for sill plates, and for draft stops and fire blocks.